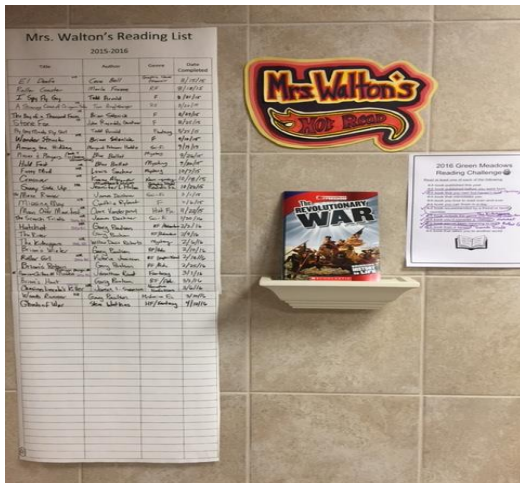


# Independent Reading Initiative (IRI)

Green Meadows Intermediate is Making it Happen!



**WE ARE** Green Meadows Intermediate Elementary, a 3-5 intermediate elementary serving 430 students in Frankfort, Indiana.

## OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Green Meadows students are 52% Hispanic, 45% white, 1% African-American, 1% Asian, and 1% multiracial. Approximately 38% of our students are EL with nearly all of these being Spanish-speaking.

**OUR TEACHERS** Green Meadows certified instructional staff consists of 18 classroom teachers, 4 Special Areas teachers, 3 EL teachers, 4 Special Education Teachers, 1 Literacy Interventionist, 1 Instructional Coach, and 1 School Counselor. We also have 8 classified staff members that support instruction.

**OUR PROMISING PRACTICE** The primary purpose of the Independent Reading Initiative at Green Meadows is to create a literacy-rich culture and love for reading in both children and adults. As research tells us, the more students read and are exposed to a variety of texts and genres that are a good mixture of high-interest, grade-level, and instructional level, the higher they will achieve in school. We utilize the Balanced Literacy framework, which includes a 90-minute reading block with the following components: mini-lesson/modeling, guided practice, and independent practice/reading. Effective reading instruction results in students applying strategies they learn during mini-lessons throughout each component of the reading block and into their independent reading outside of the classroom. The ultimate goal is to prepare our students to be able to interact effectively with a variety of texts in their everyday lives.

**OUR STEPS** The IRI got its start during a professional development session presented by Steven Layne in the summer of 2015. After Steven's presentation, several of our staff members brought it back to our school's Success Team, the passion for reading and getting our students to read more was ignited within all of us. EVERY staff member that works in our school created a Hot Read display where he/she places the children's book he/she is reading. This creates staff-student and student-student book chats. Students and staff log each book they read independently in an effort to make a goal of 50 books. Individuals get their picture displayed in the cafeteria once they have read 10, 25, and 50.

**OUR SOURCES** As of April, 17% of Green Meadows students have read 50 books independently with 67% of students reading at least 10 books. Instead of just focusing on the tangible number of 50 books, our staff and students celebrate the fact that all involved are reading more than they have in the past.

"I have found more books I enjoy reading this year, because I read my teacher's Hot Reads." – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

"Learning more about independent reading and the importance of it has helped me to increase reading stamina, find just right books, have meaningful book discussions, and build a reading life in my classroom where students are excited to read."

– Mereith Mast, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

To IGNITE your passion, read [Igniting a Passion for Reading](#) by Steven L. Layne.

For more information about our school or corporation, email: [Brian Johnson, Principal, johnsonb@frankfort.k12.in.us](mailto:Brian Johnson, Principal, johnsonb@frankfort.k12.in.us) or visit our website: [greenmeadows.frankfortschools.org](http://greenmeadows.frankfortschools.org)